

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. An isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding a pepper thionin-like protein (*PepThi*) from pepper having an amino acid sequence of **SEQ ID NO:2**.

2. The isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 1, wherein said pepper thionin-like protein (*PepThi*) is expressed in plant in response to infection by microorganism.

3. The isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 1, wherein said nucleic acid molecule is cDNA molecule having nucleotide sequence of **SEQ ID NO:1**.